

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-24 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 13 has been amended, claims 1-12 have been canceled, and new claims 19-24 have been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant cancels non-elected claims 2-5, subject to Applicant's right to file these claims in one or more divisional applications.

The objection to claim 1 in paragraph 3 of the Office Action is noted but is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 1.

In paragraph 5, claims 1, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bovone (U.S. Patent No. 5,433,657). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of those claims.

Claims 8, 9, 11-15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bovone in view of Ercole et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,848,005). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 are canceled, thereby rendering this part of the rejection moot.

Claim 13 is directed to a glass-plate working apparatus comprising grinding means for grinding a peripheral edge of a glass plate, grinding supporting means for supporting the glass plate whose peripheral edge is to be ground by said grinding means, and transporting means for transporting said glass plate in and out said grinding supporting means by a linear movement thereof crossing above said grinding supporting means, wherein said grinding supporting means includes a grinding supporting table, a plurality of suction cups which are held on said grinding supporting table by being attached by suction to said grinding supporting table and suck and hold the glass plate by sucking the glass plate whose peripheral edge is to be ground, and arranging means for disposing said plurality of suction cups, respectively, at positions corresponding to a

shape of the glass plate to be ground, and wherein said arranging means includes a suction-cup lifting device equipped to said supporting means for raising the suction cup, wherein said transporting means includes one lifting device for raising the glass plate to be carried in, another lifting device for raising the glass plate on the suction cup to be carried out, and a slider to which said suction-cup lifting device, said one lifting device and said other lifting device are attached, and which is linearly movable in one direction.

Neither Bovone nor Ercole et al. teaches or suggests this subject matter. In particular, neither Bovone nor Ercole et al. teaches or suggests that the transporting means includes one lifting device for raising the glass plate to be carried on, another lifting device for raising the glass plate on the suction cup to be carried out, and a slider to which said suction cup lifting device, said one lifting device and said other lifting device are attached, and which is linearly movable in one direction.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bovone in view of Ercole et al. and Monforte (U.S. Patent No. 4,809,425). Claim 10 has been canceled thereby rendering this portion of the rejection moot. In addition, claim 16 depends from claim 13 and is patentable by virtue of that dependency. Monforte does not make up for the deficiencies noted above with respect to Bovone and Ercole et al.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claims 19-24 are presented for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 19-24 are the non-means analog of claims 13-18.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

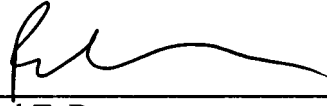
BÂNDÔ, Kazuaki
Appl. No. 10/529,384
October 22, 2007

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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